



Galway County Council Archives

**GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL,
COUNCIL MINUTES**

GC/1/52

25 MAY 2009 - 26 APRIL 2010

COMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL, ON MONDAY 26TH APRIL, 2010

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. T. McHugh

ILATHAIR FRESIN:-

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, P. Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, Comh S. Ó Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, M. Maher, E. Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J. McDonagh, M. Mullins, M. Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Baill:-

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager, Messrs. J. Cullen, K. Kelly, F. Gilmore, Directors of Services, Messrs. M. Dolly, J. Eising, M. Lavelle, Senior Engineers, G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance, Ms. B. McDermott, County Secretary. Messrs M. Owens, Senior Executive Officers, and Ms. R. O'Boyle, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

318

The Mayor, Members & County Manager extended sympathy to Mr. Albert Comer, Senior Executive Officer, Planning Department and the Comer Family on the death of their mother, Kitty.

A resolution of sympathy was also extended to the following:-

Stephen Kinneavey, Camp Street, Oughterard, Co. Galway
Angela Bane, Fahy Gardens, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Kevin Casey, Mount Carmel Crescent, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Eugene McCormack, Caramore, Clostown, Loughrea, Co. Galway
Joe Daly & Family, Galway Road, Ballygar, Co. Galway
Kay McCarty, Gardenfield, Tuam, Co. Galway
Paddy Hannon, Birmingham Road, Tuam, Co. Galway
Liam Diamond, Tulley, Renvyle, Co. Galway

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING 319

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 22nd March 2010 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, and seconded by Cllr. Maher

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND 320

The Report of the Environment & Water Services SPC Meeting held on 16th December 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh.

The Report of the Oranmore Area Committee Meeting held on 9th February 2010 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Carroll seconded by Cllr. McDonagh

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 1st February 2010 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. Feeney

The Report of the Loughrea Area Committee Meeting held on 8th February 2010 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Maher, seconded by Cllr. Fahy.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.04 HECTARES AT PAIRC NA hABHANN ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY. 321

Report dated 12th April, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the disposal of 0.04 hectares No. 30 and No. 33 at Pairc na hAbhann, Athenry Co. Galway was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.220 HECTARES AT MONKSLAND, ATHLONE, CO. ROSCOMMON 322

Report dated 14th April, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh, the disposal of 0.220 Hectares at Monksland, Athlone, Co. Roscommon was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER PART 8 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 – ROS AN MHÍL , CO. GALWAY LA01/10

323

Report dated the 19th April, 2010 was already circulated to each Member

On the proposal of Cllr. O Curraoin, seconded by Cllr. Welby, it was agreed that the proposal for the construction of a dormer dwelling house and effluent treatment system at Ros an Mhíl, County Galway be approved

MEP'S NORTH WEST CONSTITUENCY - MARIAN HARKIN, PAT "THE COPE" GALLAGHER & JIM HIGGINS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

324

The Mayor welcomed MEP's Marian Harkin, Pat (the Cope) Gallagher and Jim Higgins to the Chamber.

A number of issues were raised by the Members and responded to by the MEP's as follows:-

They confirmed that at the present time, there is an acceptance at EU Level that Ireland has started to manage the financial situation, and it is expected that the funding being paid by the ECB will continue.

Referring to unemployment and emigration they advised that there are 170 new jobs being created in the EU which will be advertised shortly. Interested parties should contact the European Commission Offices in Dublin.

In order to qualify for EU funding following the severe flooding of last year a submission of a minimum of €9m had to be made, however, the MEP's were concerned that Ireland's submission was only in the region of €5m. The EU has sought further information from the Department of Finance on Ireland's submission.

MEP Higgins raised the issue of planning permission in areas prone to flooding.

In relation to the issue of SAC's, the MEP's confirmed that there has not been any successful challenge to SAC's to date. However, issues need to be teased out as this is a major issue and support will have to be sought from other MEP's

The MEP's expressed their support for the next phase of the Western Rail Corridor.

The Mayor thanked the MEP's for their attendance.

NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR SMARTER TRAVEL AREAS

325

Report dated the 26th April, 2010 was circulated to each Member.

Mr. Owens outlined the Council's involvement in the National Competition for Smarter Travel Areas, both in relation to the Joint Bid with Galway City Council for the Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area and the Council's bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town. Mr. Owens summarized the range of high level measures in both bids and the funding associated with same and confirmed that both bids were being finalised with a view to submitting same to the Department of Transport by the deadline of Friday, 30th April 2010. Mr. Owens dealt with a range of queries from the Members relating to both the Loughrea & Galway Metropolitan Smarter Travel Area Bid including queries relating to the public engagement and consultation undertaken and the role of the Loughrea Smarter Travel Forum.

It was proposed by Cllr. Fahy, seconded by Cllr. Hynes and agreed to endorse the bids and approve the submission of same to the Department of Transport.

TO CONSIDER ADDITIONS TO THE RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES AS PER SECTION 55 OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 AS AMENDED 326

Report dated 15th April, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Carroll and agreed, that the additions to the Record of Protected Structures as per Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 as amended, be included in the Record.

PRESENTATION BY PAULINE O'DWYER, EMPLOY ABILITY SERVICE GALWAY 327

The Mayor welcomed Ms. Pauline O'Dwyer, of Employ Ability Service Galway to the Meeting. Ms. O'Dwyer gave a Presentation to the Members regarding the type of service Employ Ability give to the area. Following the presentation, a short discussion took place regarding this issue. The Mayor on behalf of the Members and Staff thanked Ms. O'Dwyer for the informative talk on this very worthwhile service.

TO FIX DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING 328

It was proposed by Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. McDonagh, and agreed that the Annual Meeting be held on the 14th June, 2010 at 3.30 p.m.

TO FIX TIME AND VENUE FOR MAY MEETING 329

It was proposed by Cllr Maher, seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh, and agreed to hold the May Monthly on the 24th May, 2010 at the Ard Ri House Hotel, Tuam at 2.30 p.m. following lunch.

(A) APPOINTMENT OF 2 MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE WESTERN RIVER BASIN DISTRICT 330

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn that Cllr. Feeney be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn that Cllr. Welby be appointed.

As there were no further proposals in respect of these vacancies, the Mayor declared Cllrs. Feeney and Welby appointed as a members of the Advisory Council for the Western River Basin District.

(B) APPOINTMENT OF 2 MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR THE SHANNON INTERNATIONAL RIVER BASIN DISTRICT – 331

It was proposed by Cllr McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Canney that Cllr. M. Connolly be appointed.

It was proposed by Cllr. McDonagh, seconded by Cllr. Canney that Cllr. McClearn be appointed.

As there was no further proposals in respect of these vacancies, the Mayor declared Cllrs. Connolly and McClearn appointed as a members of the Advisory Council for the Shannon International River Basin District.

WATER SERVICES INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2010 – 2012 332

Mr. Cullen referred to his report dated 26/4/10 circulated to the Members and which included a copy of Circular Letter L2/10 dated 20th April, setting out the Water Services Investment Programme, (WSIP), for County Galway for the period 2010 – 2012. He said the preparation of the new WSIP has taken into consideration the current economic climate and availability of resources and accordingly prioritises works that specifically:

- Targets public health;
- Deals with environmental compliance issues;
- Rehabilitates existing water supply networks;
- Progresses works that support economic and employment growth.

Apart from the foregoing, there are a number of significant changes to the format and content of the WSIP. In previous WSIPs, schemes were considered. In the new format, a distinction has been made between schemes and contracts, which allows for the prioritisation of works within the individual schemes. He advised that the implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plans, (RBMP), and in particular, required works to meet targets to be achieved by 2015 in the RBMPs, have

been included for, and that Water Conservation works are now fully integrated in the WSIP.

He said this WSIP prioritises those schemes and contracts which are in progress to construction within the life of the programme. It also includes a number of schemes to progress through the planning phase within the same time scale. In respect of County Galway the WSIP provides for the following:

- 6 contracts and water conservation projects under construction at the end of 2009, at an estimated cost of €17,312,000;
- 26 contracts to commence construction over the period 2010 – 2012 at an estimated cost of €112,696,000, including 7 water conservation contracts at an estimated cost of €13,770,000;
- 8 schemes and water conservation projects to advance through planning.

He said that the total estimated cost of contracts to start over the life of this WSIP, in Co. Galway, is €130,008,000. While this investment will be beneficial in terms of the standard of water services provision and compliance with necessary regulations he strongly emphasised that it will have a consequential impact on Galway County Council's Water Services budgets in the coming years, under the Polluter Pays Principle. Based on the current levels estimated for marginal cost for the schemes included in the WSIP under the headings, "Schemes at Construction" and "Schemes to Start", the County Council's share of the funding required over the life of this Programme is estimated to be in the region of €31.45 million. That equates to 24.2% of the total estimated cost of the schemes, over a period of 3 years. Furthermore, the upgrading and extension of existing schemes, along with the addition of new schemes, leads to higher operation and maintenance costs, all of which may not be possible to recoup from water charges.

In relation to the schemes that had dropped off the WSIP he said there would be administrative clarifications and changes, as appropriate, in relation to the funding of discontinued schemes, the approval of budgets, the application of water pricing policy and design reviews. These issues are being dealt with by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government at present and will be the subject of a further circular to issue in the near future. Until such time as this clarification issues, only those schemes included in the WSIP will be actively progressed.

Cllr. T. Walsh thanked Mr. Cullen for his report and acknowledged the amount of work being undertaken in the Water Services Department. He said he was extremely disappointed that Glenamaddy Sewerage Scheme was no longer in the Programme. Cllr. M. Connolly referred to the level of investment in the rural water programme and the speed with which it was delivered relative to the main Capital Works Programme. He complemented Mr. John Diskin, in particular, for his work in this area. Cllr. Feeney enquired about the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme and also the status of the Loughrea RWSS extension to Kilreekill. He stated that the requirement for the Council to provide upwards of €30m of funding to deliver the WSIP over the next 3 years was simply unsustainable for Galway County Council. Cllr. McClearn asked if the programme would result in the

extension of water services to new areas or simply improve the quality in areas already serviced. Cllr. Ó Cuaig asked what schemes had been removed from the Programme. Cllr. Ó Tuairisg asked that An Spideal Sewerage Scheme be progressed. Cllr. Ó Curraoin referred to An Ceathrú Rua Sewerage Scheme and suggested that the proposed site for the Treatment Plant was not suitable. Cllr. Cuddy stated that the WSIP was just a further version of an aspirational document and the timescales were not realistic. Cllr. Carroll asked about the status of the proposed Clarinbridge Sewerage Scheme. Cllr. Roche asked for details on the boil notice on the Mid-Galway Supply.

Mr. Cullen responded to the queries raised by the Members providing an update for the specific schemes and projects. He listed the schemes that had been included in the Council's assessment of needs but which were not now listed in the Water Services Investment Programme. He re-emphasised that the biggest issue facing the Council in relation to Water Services Infrastructure continues to be the current system of funding. He said the Council was simply unable to afford the proportion of the capital cost of the programme which was estimated to be in the order of €31m over the next 3 years. Nonetheless, he said the Council would continue to advance schemes on the Programme through to tender stage and decisions would have to be made on a case by case basis as to whether the Council could afford to implement the relevant scheme. Mr. Cullen thanked the Members for their continued support.

FLOODING UPDATE

333

The Manager referred to the Report dated 23rd April, 2010 which had been circulated to each Member.

It was proposed by Cllr. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed that "where no permanent engineering solution can be found by the County Council and the OPW for flooded houses, in those circumstances that a relocation package be sought from the Department of Finance for people to relocate, who wish to do so."

The members raised issues which were responded to by the County Manager as follows:-

- Galway County Council has no remit in the area of the Humanitarian Aid Scheme, however, it was agreed that Galway County Council will seek to have the remit of the Scheme (which is administered by the Health Service Executive) widened at the request of members.
- Arrangements are in place to complete the joint inspections which are being carried out by Galway County Council and the Office of Public Works
- Galway County Council had no direct involvement in the submission for the EU Funding Package for flooding. This was submitted by the Department of Finance at national level.

Minutes of April Meeting held on 26th April 2010

The County Manager clarified the role of the Planning Authority in relation to the planning and flooding.

The Planning & Development Act of 2000 enables Local Authorities to include provision in the Development Plans for “regulating, restricting or controlling development in areas at risk of flooding.

In addition the rainfall last November which caused the worst of the flooding was unprecedented and homes that were 100 years old had flooded for the first time. The Council uses the best information available to it when considering planning applications, however, she pointed out that planning applicants or their agents have a duty of responsibility here as well. The interaction of the planning process with flooding issues is governed by the Planning & Development Act, 2000 and statutory Guidelines on the Planning System and flood risk management, issued by Ministers Gormley and Manseragh on 30th November, 2009. The aim of these guidelines is to fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system. Galway County Council complies with the Guidelines and uses the information maps from the Office of Public Works which represents best practice in the Country. These maps are available to any prospective planning applicant. Records of most recent flood events are incorporated into the process as they become available from the OPW national flood mapping service. Planning Applications are screened for proximity to published mapped flood events.

Galway County Council sympathises with the many families and businesses who were impacted by the unprecedented flooding last November.

Cllr. McClearn proposed that the flooding update item should be included on the Monthly Agenda for the foreseeable future, this was seconded by Cllr. Fahy and agreed.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

334

A report dated 26th April was circulated to the Members.

It was proposed by Cllr. McClearn, seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion and agreed to defer this item to the May Meeting.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

335

There was no business under this item.

MAYORS BUSINESS

336

In response to an issue raised by the Members regarding the “work to rule” Mr. Kelly confirmed that such industrial action should not affect the work to be carried out and if otherwise, he asked to be notified and he will raise the matter with the Unions.

Cllr. D. Connolly raised an issue of anti-social behaviour in Ballinasloe Electoral Area and asked if a meeting with Ballinasloe Town Council and Ballinasloe Electoral Area

could be arranged. Mr. Kelly advised that he was aware of the issue and was in contact with the Gardai.

CONFERENCES

337

On the proposal of Cllr Mullins and seconded by Cllr. T. Mannion the proposed attendances at conferences was agreed.

- **Association of County & City Councils Annual Conference 2010 – Rebuilding Confidence in urban & rural communities – 4th – 5th March – Ballykisteen Hotel, Limerick Junction, Co. Tipperary**
 1. Mary Hoade
 2. Michael Mullins
 3. Liam Carroll
 4. Peter Feeney
 5. Jarlath McDonagh
 6. Seamus Walsh
 7. Seán Kyne

- **2010 Annual LAMA Conference – Councillors Role in Changing Climate – 9th – 10th April – Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Rd., Sligo**
 1. Jarlath McDonagh
 2. Michael Mullins
 3. Peter Roche
 4. Jim Cuddy
 5. Tomás Ó Curráoin
 6. Michael Fahy
 7. Mary Hoade
 8. Tomás Mannion
 9. Peter Feeney
 10. Seán Kyne
 11. Pat Hynes
 12. Michael Maher

Minutes of April Meeting held on 26th April 2010

- **BMW Regional Assembly – Annual Conference 2010 – Promoting Growth & Jobs in Ireland’s Regions – 16th April – Cavan Crystal Hotel, Cavan Town.**
 1. Peter Feeney
 2. Jarlath McDonagh

- **Esperanza Enterprises – Banking, Insurance, & NAMA – The effect on Local Government – 16th – 18th April – Carlton Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry**
 1. Pat Hynes
 2. Michael Fahy
 3. Seán O’Tuairisg
 4. Jimmy McClearn
 5. Colm Keaveney

- **BMF Conferences – Transforming Public Services II – Equipping Organisations for Change – 28th April – Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin**
 1. Tim Broderick
 2. Peter Roche

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 18 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 338

The following reply was given:-

“The Council is liaising with the Gort Playground Committee with a view to finalising all legal requirements.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 19 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 339

The following reply was given:-

“It is not anticipated that it will be possible to provide a Motor Tax facility at this time but the possibility of providing assistance to people to tax their vehicle on-line is being considered.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 340

The following reply was given:-

“The appropriate sign will be provided and the road will also be scheduled for routine maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 341

The following reply was given:-

“Each grave, when opened for the first interment, shall be sunk to a depth of eight feet at least, or in case the nature of the sub-soil will not permit the grave being sunk to such depth, then to such lesser depth to be sufficient for the protection of public health, as certified in writing by the Environmental Health Officer. The cost of burial plots are €415 for a double plot and €220 for a single plot.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. M. FAHY 342

The following reply was given:-

“The location will be examined and a report arising from same will be made available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. M. FAHY 343

The following reply was given:-

“The location will be examined and a report arising from same addressing the issue of flooding at the location will be made available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. M. FAHY 344

The following reply was given:-

“It is intended to undertake culvert repair works on the Gardenblake – Kiltomas Road in the coming weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. P. HYNES 345

The following reply was given:-

"The Stage II Bid for Loughrea Smarter Travel Town contains a range of proposals to improve accessibility and safety at the Junction of Cross Street, Barrack Street, Moore Street and Lake Road. These proposals include signalising the junction, improving footpaths and providing a range of traffic calming measures and speed controls."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. P. HYNES

346

The following reply was given:-

"The road will be included on the schedule for routine road maintenance."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. P. HYNES

347

The following reply was given:-

"The Council does not propose to build the proposed wall due to a lack of available finances and the need for such a wall would not be considered priority works."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. P. ROCHE

348

The following reply was given:-

"Roadworks are scheduled for this location in 2010 and the signage will be erected in the course of undertaking such works."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. P. ROCHE

349

The following reply was given:-

"Galway County Council have carried out extensive works to remove illegally dumped materials from bogs and wooded areas in 2010 to date. However, all monies have now been expended and we are not in a position to carry out any further works of this nature for the remainder of the year."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30– CLLR. P. ROCHE

350

The following reply was given:-

"The provision of barriers at bog roads is not deemed to be a practical solution to the problem of illegal dumping at these locations."

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31– COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

351

The following reply was given:-

“Tá an Comhairle Chontae ag déanamh athbraithniú faoi láthar ar reamhthuarastáil a seoladh thuig an Roinn i Mí Deireadh Fomhár, 2007 de bharr ceisteanna a d’ardaigh siad agus tá muid ag súil freagra a chuir arais roimh 30 Meitheamh 2010.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 32– COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

352

The following reply was given:-

“Beidh an Comhairle Chontae ag déanamh obair deisiuchan go gairid ar bhóthar – Gort na Glasach agus an píosa atá contuiteach idir Corr na Móna agus an Fhairche. Tá obair deisiuchan déanta ar bhóthar Cheathrú Chaoil.

Tá an ceist mar gheall ar na tochair atá dúnta ar an Fhairche á scrúdú faoi láthair.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 33– COMH. S. Ó TUAIRISG

353

The following reply was given:-

“An inspection of this location has been scheduled and thereafter a report will be made available on the matter.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 34– CLLR. T. BRODERICK

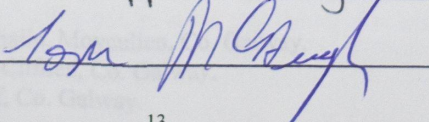
354

The following reply was given:-

“The funding of major projects undertaken by Galway County Council has traditionally been of a retrospective nature. That is the Council incur the expenditure and then are recouped by the relevant Government Department funding the project. As a result the Council have, on occasion, to rely on an overdraft facility pending receipt of funding from the relevant department. Galway County Council endeavour to manage the payment process to tie in with the recoupment of funds to minimise its exposure to overdraft interest. However, due to the nature of the funding process as outlined above the Council will on occasion incur overdraft interest charges which can only be avoided by the relevant department funding projects in advance, which might of itself necessitate the funding department to require an overdraft facility.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin

Submitted, Approved & Signed



13

24th May 2010

DATE

CHOMHAIRLE CHONTAE NA GAILLIMHE

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL
HELD AT ÁRAS AN CHONTAE, PROSPECT HILL ON MONDAY 22nd
MARCH, 2010.**

CATHAOIRLEACH:

Cllr. T. McHugh

ILATHAIR FREISIN:

Baill:

Cllrs. T. Broderick, S. Canney, L. Carroll, P. Connaughton, D. Connolly, M. Connolly, J. Cuddy, Comh S O'Cuaig, Comh T. Ó Curraoin, Cllrs. M. Fahy, P. Feeney, G. Finnerty, M. Hoade, P. Hynes, C. Keaveney, S. Kyne, E Mannion, T. Mannion, J. McClearn, J McDonagh, M Mullins, M. Noone, P. Roche, Comh S. Ó Tuairisg, Cllrs. S. Walsh, T. Walsh, T. Welby, B. Willers.

Oifigigh:

Ms. M. Moloney, County Manager;
Messrs. J. Cullen, K. Kelly, F. Gilmore, P. Ridge, Directors of Service; G. Mullarkey, Head of Finance; M. Dolly, J. Eising, E. Molloy, M. Lavelle, M. Ní Chionna, Senior Engineers; B. McDermott, County Secretary; A. Comer, G. Scully, Senior Executive Officers; J. Leahy, U. Finn, Senior Executive Engineers, B. Barrett, Administrative Officer; P. Kavanagh, E.S.B. Ireland; P. O Neachtain, Oifigeach Gaeilge; G. Healy, Staff Officer.

Thosnaigh an cruinniú leis an paidir.

RESOLUTIONS OF SYMPATHY

285

A resolution of sympathy was extended to the following:-

John & Sarah Melia, Gortahalla, Moycullen, Co. Galway.

Kevin Bolger, Derrygimla, Clifden, Co. Galway.

Mary Nugent Claddaghduff, Co. Galway.

Carmel Lynch & Family, 1 College Green, Dunmore Road, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Mrs. Mary Lohan & Family, Clooncunone, Newbridge, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
The Coleman Family, C/o Paddy Coleman, Crumlin, Ballyglunin, Tuam, Co. Galway.
John O' Hagan, Clareview, Claretuam, Tuam, Co. Galway.
Marguerite Bleahen, Kilgerril, Kilconnell, Co. Galway.

VOTE OF CONGRATULATIONS

286

A vote of congratulations was extended to Paddy Brennan of Ardrahan on winning the Cheltenham Gold Cup the previous week.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING

287

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on 22nd February 2010 were approved by the Council and signed by the Mayor on the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, and seconded by Cllr. T. Walsh.

Arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Mullins asked if a response was received by the Council from Minister Gormley or Minister Dempsey's office to the request that they meet with a deputation from the Council to discuss the securing of additional funds to repair roads damaged by the recent bad weather.

Ms. McDermott stated that an acknowledgement was received from Minister Gormley's office stating that this matter is under the remit of the Minister for Transport and she said that a reply is awaited from Minister Dempsey.

Cllr. Mullins asked that the request be sent to Minister Dempsey again if no reply is received in a week or so.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. O Tuairisg referring to the new EPA Guidelines asked if the E.P.A. have contacted the Council regarding the provision of Seminars for the Members. Mr. Kelly in response said that Seminars are being provided by E.P.A. for staff, however, he stated that he is not aware that Seminars are being provided for the Members. Cllr. O Tuairisg then proposed that the E.P.A. be asked to provide Seminars for the Members and this proposal was seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh and agreed.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. T. Walsh referred to the submissions made to the OPW for flood relief and asked for an update on same. The Manager replied that 50 applications have been submitted to the OPW for funding and a decision is awaited from the OPW. Further applications for funding are being prepared.

Also arising from the Minutes, Cllr. Keaveney referred to the proposal he made regarding the Tuam Leisure Facility and he stated that the reply he received from the Executive of the Council to his proposal was not acceptable. He asked that Manager to invite Kingfisher Ltd. to the next meeting of the Council.

The Manager replied that she has agreed to a request from the Tuam Leisure Facility Action Committee to meet with them and she has asked for advance notice of issues they wish to raise at that meeting. She pointed out that any further discussion on this issue should await the outcome of this meeting.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

288

The Report of the Tuam Area Committee Meeting held on 23rd November 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney and seconded by Cllr T. Walsh.

The Report of the Housing SPC Meeting held on 14th December 2009 was considered. It was adopted by the Council on the proposal of Cllr. T. Walsh and seconded by Cllr Willers.

DECLARATION OF ROADS TO BE PUBLIC ROADS – SECTION 11 OF ROADS ACT 1993

289

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion and seconded by Comh. Ó Curraoin, the Council approved the declaration of the following road to be a public road, the statutory procedure having been complied with

Road commencing at junction with Regional Road R336 in the townland of Derryloughnane West and extending north for a distance of 565 metres in the townland of Derryloughnane West and finishing at the end of the road in the townland of Derryloughnane West.

Electoral Area: Conamara

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.0211 HECTARES AT NO. 18 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY

290

Report dated the 26th February, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Maher, the disposal of 0.0211 hectares at No. 18 Páirc na hAbhann, Athenry, Co. Galway, was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND

SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.4046 HECTARES AT LISSOUGHTER, RECESS, CO. GALWAY 291

Report dated the 1st March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. E. Mannion, seconded by Cllr. O Tuairisg, the disposal of 0.4046 hectares at Lissoughter, Recess, Co. Galway, was approved.

TO CONSIDER REPORT UNDER SECTION 183 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2001 AND SECTION 211 OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 206 (1) OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS 2001 AND SECTION 88 OF THE HOUSING ACT 1996 ON THE DISPOSAL OF 0.020 HECTARES AT NO. 4 PÁIRC NA HABHANN, ATHENRY, CO. GALWAY 292

Report dated the 3rd March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Feeney, seconded by Cllr. Roche, the disposal of 0.020 hectares at No. 4 Páirc na h Abhann, Athenry, Co. Galway was approved.

REPORT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNTY GALWAY JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE 293

Report dated the 5th March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

Cllr. D. Connolly welcomed the report and pointed out that he had been a member of the previous JPC and had raised the issue of illegal dumping, however, no action had been taken.

Cllr. Broderick stated that he raised the issue of contraband cigarettes at a meeting of the JPC but no action appears to have been taken by the Gardaí since.

Cllr. Hoade who is the Chairperson of the JPC agreed that these issues will be raised at the next meeting of the JPC on the 12th April, 2010.

The Members noted the Report as circulated.

AUDIT REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2008 294

Report dated the 11th March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. S. Walsh, it was agreed that the Audit Report of the Accounts of Galway County Council for the year ending 31st December, 2008 which includes the Annual Financial Statement for the year ending 31st December, 2008, be approved.

OVERDRAFT ACCOMMODATION OF €35 MILLION FOR THE PERIOD

01/07/10 – 30/06/11

295

Report dated the 11th March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

In reply to a query from Cllr. Broderick, Mr. Mullarkey stated that Council gets its overdraft facility from the Bank of Ireland. He said that the Council did not use the overdraft facility so far this year but an overdraft facility is required should the need arise during the year.

Cllr. Broderick requested figures for the cost of the overdraft facility for 2008 & 2009 and Mr. Mullarkey agreed to supply such figures.

Cllr. Broderick stated that given the fact that the overdraft facility is provided by a bank which was bailed out by the Government, the Council should ask the Minister for Finance to review the matter and waive the overdraft costs and he asked that this item be deferred pending communication with the Minister for Finance.

The Manager pointed out to the Members that sanction to the overdraft facility is necessary in order to ensure that the Council can continue with the works programme, however communication will be sent to the Department of Finance as requested by Cllr. Broderick.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. Carroll it was agreed that the overdraft accommodation of €35m for the period 1/7/10 to 30/6/11 be approved.

TO APPROVE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME GRANTS 2010

296

Report dated the 15th March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. M. Connolly, it was agreed that the Community Support Scheme Grants 2010 be approved.

The Members welcomed the grants approved and the community support involved, however, concerns were raised regarding the problem with unemployment in communities. Cllr. O Curraoin proposed "that Galway County Council call on the relevant Ministries, Agencies, including the Department of Social Welfare, Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment, Local Authorities and FÁS to initiate schemes that would give young unemployed men and women in this state meaningful work where they could improve their skills for future employment". This proposal was seconded by Cllr. McClearn and agreed.

The Manager stated that the CCMA had prepared a proposal on behalf of local authorities and submitted same to FÁS in order to seek to establish a scheme to facilitate employment for unemployed people. However, to date no response has been received. She welcomed the resolution passed by the Members which may advance the issue.

TO APPROVE ARTS ACT SUPPORTS GRANTS 2010

297

Report dated the 15th March, 2010 was already circulated to each Member.

Mr. Barrett clarified a number of issues raised by the Members regarding the assessment process. On the proposal of Cllr. Keaveney, seconded by Cllr. Connaughton, it was agreed that the Arts Act Supports Grants 2010 be approved.

**WESTERN RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009 – 2015 AND
SHANNON RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN 2009-2015**

298

Report dated 18th March, 2010 was circulated to each Member.

The Mayor introduced Ms. Maire Ní Chionna, Senior Engineer, Galway County Council and Mr Paddy Kavanagh, of ESBI Consultants, to the meeting and first asked Mr. Cullen to give an outline of the Western and Shannon International River Basin Management Plans.

Mr. Cullen referred to both plans and an accompanying report dated 18th March 2010 and stated that the River Basin Management Plans had their origins in the Water Framework Directive and were developed through a series of stages involving detailed consultation with the public and interest groups and also public representatives. He said the plans bring together in an integrated way the various legislative requirements dealing with water quality and outline the objectives and measures that need to be implemented so that water bodies can achieve the status required under the EU Water Framework Directive and, accordingly, recommended the adoption of both Plans by the Council. He then invited Ms. Ní Chionna and Mr. Kavanagh to make a presentation on the detail of the Plans.

Ms. Ní Chionna noted that managing the protection of natural waters on the basis of the natural land unit or river catchment was accepted as best practice since catchments often stretch across administrative boundaries and many public bodies and stakeholders have a role to play in protection of water quality. The Water Framework Directive 2000 for catchment management was agreed by governments and the EU Parliament in 2000 and was transposed into Irish legislation as Water Policy Regulations in 2003. These Regulations identify the River Basin Districts that are required to produce Managements Plans and assign roles and responsibilities for the investigations and mapping required to support the Plans and for the making of the Plans. All relevant public bodies are required to co-ordinate and co-operate in implementing these Plans.

Mr. Kavanagh made a detailed presentation on the contents of the Plans. After the introduction and description of the river basin districts, the Plans describe the status of the waters, the objectives to be achieved, the programme of measures and how the Plans will integrate with other plans and programmes. Water status is assigned by the EPA, with colour coding of maps according to the status of the water body. In the Western River Basin District, 66% of rivers and 82% of lakes are at good or high

status which compares well with national figures. However, only 68% of groundwater is at good status, reflecting the vulnerability of groundwater where the underlying rock is karst limestone. Key pressures include agriculture, municipal wastewater treatment plants, forestry on peat soils and high densities of septic tank systems. The objectives of the Plans are to prevent deterioration, restore good status, prevent chemical pollution and achieve particular objectives set for protected areas such as bathing waters, shellfish waters, drinking water abstractions, SACs and SPAs. Water bodies are to be improved by 2015 or 2021 with one or two water bodies assigned the target date of 2027.

In outlining the programme of measures, Mr. Kavanagh explained that these are requirements that public bodies and the public are obliged to do under existing legislation. Recent obligations include sub-basin management plans for the freshwater pearl mussel, shellfish pollution reduction plans and standards permitted for discharges to surface and groundwater. The detail is contained in action plans prepared for Water Management Units, for groundwater and for coastal and transitional waters. Galway sits within 10 Water Management Units, some crossing into neighbouring counties and the Clare River WMU Action Plan was shown as an example.

Finally, the Plans are to be integrated with other Plans such as Regional Planning Guidelines, County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and with Flood Risk Management Plans (from 2015). Future planning objectives must ensure that adequate infrastructure is in place with a sustainable water supply and that development in unsewered areas is in accordance with the EPA Guidance Document. Wastewater treatment plants must be upgraded, discharge licences are to be reviewed and there will be a programme of agricultural inspections to ensure compliance with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations. Further regulations are likely regarding future inspections of on-site wastewater treatment systems for single houses.

A detailed discussion on the Plans then followed.

Cllr. McClearn said that the River Basin District Plans have the potential to impact on the rural way of life particularly in the areas of rural housing and farming. He acknowledged the need for measures to protect and improve water quality and stated that there needs to be a common sense approach to implementation. Cllr. Feeney expressed the same view and emphasized the need for a correct balance to be struck between the needs of ecology and the need for people to be able to continue to live normally and work in the countryside. Cllr. Connaughton referred to the area of enforcement with particular reference to farm inspections. He said it is important that there is no duplication between the activities of the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food and that of Galway County Council. This was supported by Cllr. Finnerty. Cllr. Kyne stated that the targets in the Plans need to be realistic and that he believed that much has improved in the area of agricultural practices, the benefit of which might not yet be evident in water status results. He said enforcement should be targeted at those who fail to comply with existing codes of practice rather than the agriculture sector in general. Cllr. T. Walsh stressed the need for common sense in the implementation of any measures to ensure the rural community is not unfairly treated. He said people have to be allowed to carry out development, build rural houses and farm in rural areas provided they do it in a responsible way.

Cllr M. Connolly acknowledged the level of detail included in the Plans and the extensiveness of the consultation involved in putting them together. He referred though to the importance of flood protection measures and said that the River Basin District Plans should integrate closely with the studies being undertaken in relation to flooding. Cllr. Roche said that issues such as illegal dumping contribute to deterioration of water quality standards and the focus of attention should not be on agriculture only. Cllr. Canney said that the Plans highlight the infrastructural deficit that exists and the impact that urban waster water discharges are having on water quality. He said the Plans will be of little benefit if not properly resourced by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government (DOEHLG) by providing the funding and the staff needed to deliver on them. Cllr T. Mannion agreed and referenced the need for water and sewerage schemes in many areas throughout County Galway. Comh. O Cuaig pointed to the delays in getting approval to proceed with various projects and said the emphasis seems to be on regulation rather than the provision of infrastructure to deal with the problems. Cllr. S. Walsh mentioned as an example the Oughterard Sewerage Scheme as one that still has not been implemented after many years of planning. Similarly, Cllr. Fahy mentioned the Kinvara Sewerage Scheme. Comh O Curraoin stated that wastewater treatment plants need to be looked at carefully to make sure they were not sited too closely to water courses with the risk of causing pollution. Cllr. Cuddy called for more to be done by the DOEHLG in speeding up provision of infrastructure and in the area of water harvesting. Cllr Mullins stated that the deadline of achieving good status of water by 2015 is not likely to be achieved and a longer timeframe would be needed. He also said the impact of closed landfills on waters should be addressed. Cllr. Welby referred to the need for infrastructure to address water quality problems and also the problems created by invasive alien species such the Zebra Mussel and the African Pond Weed. He said that legislation still has not been introduced to deal with these issues. Similarly, Comh. O Tuairisg said that the African Pond Weed is now a major threat to Lough Corrib and the Fisheries Board needs to be supported in their efforts to bring it under control.

On the proposal of Cllr. S. Walsh, seconded by Cllr. McClearn, it was agreed that the Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the Meeting continue after 6 p.m.

Mr. Cullen, Ms. Ní Chionna and Mr. Kavanagh then dealt with the various issues raised by the Members. They stated that as far as agriculture is concerned, the proposed River Basin Management Plans simply restate the requirements to comply with the Good Agricultural Practice Regulations for the protection of waters and that these Regulations are already in force. It was acknowledged that existing areas that are at less than good status because of the impact of agriculture may take beyond 2015 to recover and that the Plans provide for extended deadlines for compliance in those cases. This would also allow the impact of improved practices already implemented by many farmers to emerge. In relation to farm inspections, they confirmed that it is intended that there would not be duplication of effort between the local authority and Department of Agriculture Fisheries and Food but that both would liaise. The local authority would still have to inspect cases of suspected water pollution and have regard to the protection of drinking water sources. With regard to rural housing, they confirmed that the Plans reference the existing standards and EPA guidance for the on site wastewater systems and that in relation to the existing septic tanks, the Plans state that regulations and guidance is awaited from the Department of

Environment. Mr. Cullen agreed with all Members on the need for wastewater infrastructure to achieve the objectives of the Plans and also the slowness and red tape associated with project delivery. He said the Plans contain a strong statement that achievement of the objectives is dependent on the DOEHLG making available the necessary resources. He said the adoption of the Plans would very much strengthen the case to be made by the Council for the advancement of the necessary infrastructure. He thanked the Members for their contributions which he said reflect the importance of sustaining the rural community and rural way of life while at the same time acknowledging the need to improve and protect water quality.

Prior to adoption of the Plans, Cllr. Canney stated that the paragraphs in the Plans with regard to water pricing might be construed as somehow committing Galway County Council to the reintroduction of water charges on domestic properties. Mr. Cullen said that it would be open to the Council to adopt the Plans as presented and to include in the adoption resolution that the adoption of the Plans in no way commits the Council to the introduction of domestic water charges. In relation to the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan, Cllr. Feeney stated that there seems to be no reference to Tynagh Mines. Ms. Ní Chionna stated that this would be checked out and confirmed that Tynagh would be included in the Shannon Plan, if not already specifically there.

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins, seconded by Cllr. Canney it was agreed that the Western River Basin Management Plan and the Shannon International River Basin Management Plan be adopted and that nothing in either Plan commits Galway County Council to the future introduction of water charges on domestic properties.

DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

299

The Mayor advised the Members that he had consulted with the Manager and the executive and it had been agreed that a sub-committee would be established to examine the Development Contribution Scheme. It was agreed that the following six Members would form the sub-committee: Cllr. McHugh (Mayor), Cllr. McClearn, Cllr. Welby, Cllr. T. Mannion, Cllr. S. Walsh, Cllr. Canney.

ROADS PROGRAMME 2010

300

Mr. Gilmore referred to the Roads Programme 2010 details of which had been circulated to the Members.

Some Members expressed disappointment at the distribution of funding and at the amount of money being spent on the N59, in comparison to the other National Secondary Routes. Mr. Gilmore confirmed that a further submission of €4.5m has been made to the NRA and the bulk of this is for the National Routes in the east of the County. It is hoped he said to receive a further allocation in the region of €3m.

The issues of verge trimming, public lighting and local road signage were raised by Cllr. D. Connolly, however it was agreed that these issues would be addressed at a further meeting.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

301

Mr. Gilmore referred to the Report which had been circulated to the Members.

Cllr. Canney expressed concern at the condition of some houses in Gilmartin Road, Tuam and the issue of dumping in that area. He also sought clarification regarding the Leasing Scheme.

Mr. Gilmore confirmed that a Remedial Scheme is being prepared for Gilmartin Road and that the Environment Section of the Council is dealing with the dumping issue.

The Members expressed their concerns regarding the report which they said makes bad reading as it appears that the Housing Programme has "gone through the floor".

It was agreed that the new Leasing Scheme will be dealt with at a further meeting.

HEAD SHOPS

302

Cllr. Fahy suggested that planning applications for Head Shops should be deferred for six months. However, the Mayor pointed out that this is not possible under the legislation.

Mr. Kelly advised that currently when planning permission is being sought for a shop, it does not have to be specific. However, new legislation will address this, he said.

The Members requested that the Minutes reflect their opposition to Head Shops in the County and their support to the public who oppose them.

MANAGERS BUSINESS

303

The Manager informed the Members that Galway County Council has asked the Chief Justice to expedite the hearing in the Supreme Court in relation to the Galway City Outer Bypass. No date for the hearing has been set. However, a timescale of three to four weeks for lodging the Book of Appeal has been set.

MAYORS BUSINESS

304

The Members referred to the Work to Rule which is currently in place in the public sector and stated that while they are supportive of the staff involved, they are finding it difficult to fulfill their representational role.

The Manager stated that while she appreciates the difficulties being caused by the Work to Rule, it is not possible to solve the problem locally as this is a national issue.

It was proposed by Cllr. D. Connolly "that the issue of illegal dumping be a priority item on the Clár of our next Council Cruinniú and that the Council Executive bring before the Council a document outlining how it now plans to tackle this issue and deal with detected offenders, provide increased civic amenity sites, responsibility for waste, etc." This proposal was seconded by Cllrs. Connaughton, Mullins, Broderick and T. Mannion, and agreed.

It was proposed by Cllr. M. Connolly, seconded by Cllr. Hoade and agreed that the Monthly Meeting on 26th April, 2010 would commence at 12.30 p.m. in order to facilitate the attendance of the three Members of the European Parliament.(MEP's)

It was agreed that Ms. Pauline O'Dwyer of Ability Services Galway be invited to make a presentation to the Members at the April Monthly Meeting.

CONFERENCES

305

On the proposal of Cllr. Mullins and seconded by Cllr. Feeney the proposed attendances at conferences was agreed.

European Anti Poverty Network – Building Social Europe – From Crisis to Opportunity – 19th February – Croke Park Conference Centre, Dublin

Comh S O'Tuairisg

Institute of Public Health in Ireland – Climate Change: Whose health will be affected? – 25th February – Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, 6 Kildare St., Dublin 2

Comh S O'Tuairisg

Rattoo Heritage Society – 19th Annual Kerry Environmental Conference – Manor West Hotel, Tralee, Co. Kerry

Cllr. M Fahy, Cllr. P Hynes

Ashford Building Services – The Local Government Housing Service – 18th – 20th March – The Killarney Plaza Hotel & Spa, Kenmare Place, Killarney, Co. Kerry

Cllr. M Fahy, Cllr. P Hynes, Cllr. P Roche

Superior Training – Public Liability, Health & Safety Issues in Local Government – 12th – 14th March – Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford

Cllr. P Hynes

**Kerry Literary & Cultural Centre – Exploring Arts & Culture Through Town
Twinning – 25th – 27th March – Listowel, Co. Kerry**
Cllr. M Fahy, Cllr. PHynes

**Kadenza Consultancies – Climate Change, Impacts & Strategies; going forward
– 26th – 28th March – Silver Tassie Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal**

Comh. T Ó Curráoin

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 20 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 306

The following reply was given:-

“The Council is aware of the inconvenience caused to road users due to the necessity to temporarily close Courthouse Lane, in the interest of road safety, pending the completion of essential remedial works, including improvement works at the Junction with the N66.

In this regard, contract documents are currently being prepared for same and additional works that are required at other locations on the N66, with a view to undertaking these works at the earliest possible date.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 21 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 307

The following reply was given:-

“This issue has been the subject of further discussions with the National Roads Authority, in the context of securing an allocation of funding and it has been indicated to the Council that no funding will be made available in 2010 to facilitate such works in Ballinderreen.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 22 – CLLR. B. WILLERS 308

The following reply was given:-

“This road was included in the original proposals submitted for the 2010 Restoration Improvement Programme, however in the context of the severe weather experienced in late 2009 and early 2010, and the subsequent requirement to reprioritise works in the context of available resources, it was not possible to include same in the final 2010 Improvement Programme.

It is recognised that remedial works are required, however in the absence of specific funding, it will be necessary to limit such works to routine maintenance.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 23 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 309

The following reply was given:- – CLLR. S. CANNEY 315

“Routine maintenance has been undertaken on this road and accordingly the issue of the potholes has been addressed.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 24 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 310

The following reply was given:- – CLLR. SCANNY 316

“The matter will be examined and a report on same will be made available.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 25 – CLLR. J. MCDONAGH 311

The following reply was given:-

“This matter will be examined by the Planning & Sustainable Development Unit.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 26 – CLLR. M. FAHY 312

The following reply was given:-

“It is anticipated that routine maintenance, including surfacing works, will be carried at this location in the coming weeks.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 27 – CLLR. M. FAHY 313

The following reply was given:-

“The Kinvara Sewerage Scheme is currently at design review stage. The design review report is currently being reviewed by Galway County Council and the consultants and, when completed in the coming weeks, will be forwarded to the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government. In addition, a Foreshore Licence application has been prepared and submitted to the Department.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 28 – CLLR. M. FAHY 314

The following reply was given:-

“The Craughwell Sewerage Scheme is currently being reassessed in the context of the recent flooding events. In addition, the Part 8 planning documentation is being prepared for presentation to Council in the coming months for consideration.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 29 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 315

The following reply was given:-

“It is proposed to avail of the opportunity, presented by the Tuam Main Drainage Project, to place a duct along the N17 to enable the traffic lights on the N17 to be synchronised in the future.”

NOTICE OF MOTION NO 30 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 316

The following reply was given:-

“The 5% increase in non-domestic water charges was adopted at the statutory Budget Meeting of Galway County Council held on 4th January 2010 and was revised downwards from the original proposed increase of 10% at the request of the members. This halving of the proposed increase in water charges was itself intended to ease the financial burden on commercial water users, given the current economic climate. The current charges still fall far short of the levels required to achieve full cost recovery in the provision of water services. Furthermore, the Council is obliged to maintain a balanced budget, and therefore cannot consider further reductions in non-domestic water charges.”

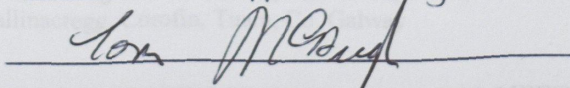
NOTICE OF MOTION NO 31 – CLLR. S. CANNEY 317

The following reply was given:-

“Arrangements are currently underway to provide a full cash receipting facility in Tuam. It is not anticipated that it will be possible to provide a Motor Tax Facility at this time but the possibility of providing assistance to people to tax their vehicle on-line is being considered.”

Criochnaigh an Cruinniú Ansin.

Submitted, Approved + Signed



26th APRIL 2010

DATE